

A  
Full and Impartial  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
DISCOVERY  
OF

SORCERY and WITCHCRAFT,

Practis'd by

JANE WENHAM of *Walkerne in Hertfordshire*, upon the Bodies of *Anne Thorne, Anne Street, &c.* The Proceedings against Her from Her being first Apprehended, till She was Committed to Gaol by Sir *HENRY CHAUNCE*.

ALSO HER

TRYAL

AT THE

Assizes at *Hertford* before Mr. Justice *ROWELL*, where she was found Guilty of Felony and Witchcraft, and receiv'd Sentence of Death for the same, *March 4. 1711-12.*

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*Thou shalt not suffer a Witch to live.*

*Exod. c. 22. v. 18.*

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*The Fourth Edition.*

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# THE PREFACE.

**T**HE Proceedings against Jane Wenham having made great a Noise in the whole County, and occasioned many various Reflections, and the whole Course of the Occurrences having been all along very strange and surprizing, it was thought proper to draw up the following Account of them, both for the Information of the World, and the Vindication of the Persons more immediately concerned in this Prosecution; especially since some People have thought fit, in a Public Manner, to express their Wonder, that Two Divines \* should concern themselves in a Thing of this Nature, as if detecting the most Abstruse, and Hidden Works of the Devil, and his Spiteful and Malicious Vassals, were a Business wholly foreign to, and inconsistent with, the Duty of a Minister of Christ.

It is humbly hoped, that every Impartial Reader will be at least so far satisfied with this Narrative, as to own there was another Reason for this Prosecution, than either the Knavery or Folly of the Promoters; that what we saw with our Eyes, and heard with our Ears, was at least very extraordinary, and justified a Strict and Solemn Enquiry, even by the Judge, into so many and so strange Mysteries of Iniquity.

When we saw a poor Cripple, not only Arise and Walk, but Run with a prodigious Swiftmess; when we heard her complain Grievously, and with Tears, of the excessive Torments she was laid under, upon the Threatning of a wicked Neighbour, and this without the least Reason to suspect any Cheat or Trick, the Person being wholly incapable of carrying on such a Design, and

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\* The Reverend Mr. Gardiner, Rector of Walkerne, and Mr. Strutt, Vicar of Ardley.

## The PREFACE.

not the least Advantage being to be gained to herself by it; when I say we saw all this, and a Multitude of concurrent Circumstances, all tending to increase and confirm our Suspicions; we thought it high Time to bestir ourselves, if by any Means we might bring the Truth to Light; although I must needs say, we did not expect to be able to bring such clear Proofs as were produced in Court, which were almost all that could be expected in such a Case, where all the World knows that the Evidence must be in a great Measure Circumstantial only; and that we should bring positive Witnesses to a Contract with the Devil, is as unreasonable for others to expect, as it is impossible for us to perform.

But what did it signify for us to bring what Evidence the Matter would bear, when there were those who had beforehand resolved to believe nothing at all of it, let the Proof be what it would? Some, of these slow Believers did afterwards acknowledge themselves surprizingly convinced, their Prejudices giving Way to the Testimony of their Reason and Senses: But it seems it was elsewhere expected, that the Witch should turn herself into a Cat, that Cat into a Dog, that Dog into a Bear, that Bear into a Lion, and that Lion into an Old Woman again, and then it might have been believed she was Guilty.

The Number and Credit of the Witnesses who were sworn, the exact Harmony between 'em, together with the Consideration, that some of them were perfect Strangers to the Prisoner, as well as to the poor Girl, till even the Time of their seeing what they attested; and that the others could have no Reason to put themselves to so much Trouble and Charge, where nothing could be gained by it, but the Guilt of combining to take away a poor Neighbour's Life. These put together, with the Unaccountableness of some of the Facts, unless solved by Witchcraft, have, I doubt not, satisfied most that know them Personally, and heard the Tryal; and as for others that shall read this Narrative, I must farther acquaint them, that the following Account is partly collected out of the Depositions or Informations taken against Jane Wenham upon Oath, before Sir Henry Chauncy, and afterwards delivered in to the Clerk of the Assize; and partly on Account of every Thing remarkable that pass'd, besides what is in the Informations, both during the Time of her Examination before the Justice who committed her, and at her Tryal. And for the Truth of this Part of the Relation, I appeal to the many Witnesses of those strange Passages, for these Things were not done in a Corner.

There



## THE PREFACE.

There were several Gentlemen who would not believe that there are any Witches since the Time of our Saviour Christ, who came to destroy the Works of the Devil: All I shall say to these Arguers is, that they would do well to remember, that St. Paul, in his Epistles to the Galatians, C. 5. v. 19, 20. expressly names among the Works of the Flesh Idolatry and Witchcraft, which certainly he would never have done if all Power had been taken from the Devil to assist his Servants in Practices of this Black, and truly Diabolical, Nature; to say nothing of the clearest Evidence to be found in many Authors of Instances of Witchcraft committed long since in our own Nation, and others, particularly that of the Witches of Warbois in Huntingdonshire, of which there is a constant Commemoration every Lady-Day, in a Sermon preached at Huntingdon, by some one of the Fellows of Queen's-College in Cambridge, upon the Subject of Witchcraft.

I shall hasten to my intended Narrative, after having just taken Notice, that since the Condemnation of this Jane Wenham, and her being Reprieved for some Time by the Judge, not only Anne Thorn, the Principal Sufferer, but also another, named Anne Street, of the same Town of Walkerne, lye in a very dismal Condition, and whenever they can speak, continue to cry out upon Jane Wenham as the Author of all their Torments; of which the Reader may expect to hear more toward the Conclusion of these Papers.

In the mean Time I once again declare, that in all Parts of this Account the strictest Regard shall be had for the Truth, and that nothing will be here inserted but what may be depended upon as such. And I desire no Favour if found Guilty of Insincerity.

A N

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A N  
A C C O U N T  
O F T H E  
P R O C E E D I N G S

Against J A N E W E N H A M for  
*Witchcraft, &c.*

**I**T often falls out, that by the Over-ruling Providence of Almighty God, the most Hidden and Private Wickednesses are discovered by the very Means us'd to conceal them, and so it happened to *Jane Wenham*.

One *John Chapman*, a Farmer at *Walkerne*, had long entertain'd a Suspicion, that the strange Deaths of many of his and the Neighbours Horses and Cattle were occasion'd by the Witchcrafts of this Woman, and thought that he himself had suffer'd by them to the Value of 200 l. in a short Time; but not being able to prove any Thing upon her, he did not inform against her, but waited till Time should present a favourable Opportunity of Convicting her. And soon after an Accident fell out, which in its Consequences brought on this Prosecution; I shall relate it in the very Words of the Information of *Matthew Gilston*, Servant to the abovesaid *John Chapman*, taken on the 14th Day of Feb. 1711-12. before Sir *Henry Chauncy*.

*Matthew Gilston* of the Parish of *Walkerne* says upon Oath, That on New-Year's-Day last past, he carrying Straw upon a Fork from Mr. Gardiner's Barn met *Jane Wenham*, who asked him for some Straw, which he refused to give her; then she said she would take some, and accordingly took some away from this Informant.

And farther, this Informant saith, That on the 29th of Jan. last, when this Informant was threshing in the Barn of his

Master John Chapman, an Old Woman in a Riding-hood or Cloak, he knows not which, came to the Barn Door, and asked him for a Penyworth of Straw; he told her he could give her none, and she went away Muttering.

And this Informant saith, That after the Woman was gone he was not able to work, but ran out of the Barn as far as a Place called Munder's-Hill, [which is above Three Miles from Walkerne,] and asked at a House there for a Penyworth of Straw, and they refusing to give him any, he went farther to some Dung-heaps, and took some Straw from thence, and pull'd off his Shirt, and brought it Home in his Shirt; he knows not what mov'd him to this, but says he was forc'd to it, he knows not how.

Thus far this Informant. It was also farther observed by some Persons, who met this Matthew Gilston running on his Fool's Errand, that he went a very great Pace, and when he came to a River he did not go over a Bridge in his Way, but directly thro' the Water. This odd Story, and the strange Account the Boy gave of it, made his Master John Chapman suspect that Jane Wenham had play'd this Trick upon his Servant; and soon after he meeting her, told her of it, and in Heat of Anger call'd her a *Witch* and *Bitch*.

After the Scolding-bout was over, this Jane Wenham thought she had got an Advantage over her Neighbour Chapman, and that she would make him pay for his Words; accordingly on the 9th of Feb. she applies herself to Sir Henry Chauncy for a Warrant against this Man for calling her a *Witch*, expecting not only to get something out of him, but to deter other People from calling her so any more; besides, this Shew of Innocence might make her the less suspected for the future.

She brought John Chapman on the 11th before Sir Henry, who having enquired after her Character, and heard a very ill one of her, did not think fit to give her any Damages for being call'd *Witch*; but told her he would refer her Cause to any one of her Neighbours; she named the Reverend Mr. Gardiner, the Minister of the Town, and John Chapman consenting, they went to him to decide the Controversie between them: Mr. Gardiner having heard her Complaint, advis'd them to live more peaceably together, and ordered John Chapman to pay her a Shilling, but would allow Jane Wenham no farther Satisfaction; at this her Anger was greatly kindled against Mr. Gardiner, and she

she went away in a great Heat, saying, *If she could not have Justice here, she would have it elsewhere, or Words to that Purpose.*

*Revenge* is naturally the first New Thought that is excited by *Anger* in a Wicked Mind ; and since Mr. *Gardiner* had incensed her, she resolv'd not to put it up it seems, nor would she delay the Mischief she had imagin'd, no, not for an Hour. *Anne Thorn*, a Young Woman, between 16 and 17 Years of Age, Servant to Mr. *Gardiner*, was sitting by the Fire-side when *Jane Wenham* was in the House ; her Knee had been just set, (it having been put out by an Accident the Night before,) and Mr. *Gardiner* asked her how she did, she answered much better than she had been while her Bone was out, but look'd a little Pale ; upon this Poor Young Lame Creature it seems *Jane Wenham* must take her *Revenge* in the following Manner, which I believe any Reader will think wholly unaccountable, and impossible to be done but by Witchcraft ; I shall give you the Account of it as near as I can in the Words of the Three Witnesses that saw it, Mr. *Gardiner* and his Wife, and Mr. *Bragge*, Neighbour, who came in accidentally but just before.

Mr. *Gardiner* had not been in the Parlour with his Wife and Mr. *Bragge* above 6 or 7 Minutes at most, since he left *Anne Thorn* sitting by the Fire, when he heard a strange rattling Noise in the Kitchen, upon which he went out, and found this *Anne Thorn* stript to her Shirt-sleeves, howling, and wringing her Hands in a dismal Manner, and speechless ; he calling out, Mrs. *Gardiner*, and Mr. *Bragge* came immediately to him ; Mrs. *Gardiner* seeing her Servant in that sad Condition, asked her what was the Matter with her ? She not being able to speak, pointed earnestly at a Bundle which lay at her Feet, which Mrs. *Gardiner* took up and unpinn'd, and found it to be the Girl's Gown and Apron, and a Parcel of Oaken Twigs, with dead Leaves crapt up therein.

As soon as this Bundle was opened, *Anne Thorn* began to speak, crying out, I'm Ruin'd and Undone ; and after she had a little better recover'd herself, gave the following Relation of what had befallen her : She said when she was left alone she found a strange Roaming in her Head, (I use her own Expressions,) her Mind run upon *Jane Wenham*, and she thought she must run some whither ; that accordingly she ran up the Close, but look'd back several Times the House, thinking she should never see it more ; that



she climb'd over a Five-Bar-Gate, and ran along the Highway up a Hill: That there she met Two of *John Chapman's* Men, One of whom took hold of her Hand, saying, she should go with them; but she was forced away from them, not being able to speak, either to them, or to one *Daniel Chapman*, whom, she said, she met on Horseback, and would fain have spoken to him, but could not; then she made her Way towards *Cromer*, as far as a Place call'd *Hackney Lane*, where she look'd behind her, and saw a little Old Woman Muffled in a Riding hood, who asked her whether she was going? She answered to *Cromer* to fetch some Sticks to make her a Fire; the Old Woman told her there was no Sticks at *Cromer*, and bad her go to that Oak Tree, and pluck some from thence, which she did, and laid them upon the Ground; then the Old Woman bad her pull off her Gown and Apron, and wrap the Sticks in 'em, and asked her whether she had e'er a Pin? Upon her answering she had none, the Old Woman gave her a large Crooked Pin, bad her pin up her Bundle, and then vanished away: After which she ran Home with her Bundle of Sticks, and sat down in the Kitchen stript, as *Mr. Gardiner* found her. This is the Substance of what she related, upon which *Mrs. Gardiner* cry'd out, The Girl has been in the same Condition with *Chapman's* Man; but we will burn the Witch; alluding to a receiv'd Notion, that when the Thing bewitch'd is burn'd, the Witch is forc'd to come in; accordingly she took the Sticks together with the Pin, and threw them into the Fire; immediately, in the Instant that the Sticks were flaming, *Jane Wenham* came into the Room, and enquir'd for *Elizabeth*, the Mother of *Anne Thorn*, saying, she had an Errand to do to her from *Ardley-Bury*, to wit, that she must go thither to wash the next Day. Now this Mother *Thorn* had been in the House all the Time that *Jane Wenham* was there with *John Chapman*, and heard nothing of it, and was then gone Home; *Mrs. Gardiner* bad *Jane Wenham* go to *Elizabeth Thorn*, and tell her there was Work enough for her there, on which she departed; and upon Enquiry made afterwards, it was found that she never was ordered to deliver any such Errand from *Ardley-Bury*.

I must here observe to the Reader, that the Distance between *Mr. Gardiner's* House and *Hackney Lane*, whither this Lame Creature ran, is half a Mile; and that, as I said before, the whole Time in which she went thither, con-

versed

versed with the Woman above describ'd, and return'd Home, was not above 6 or 7 Minutes at the most, so that she ran at the Rate of above 8 Miles an Hour: A great Swiftneſs this in a Cripple that had her Knee but juſt ſet, which from the Time of its being out, to the Time it was ſet again, was 19 Hours.

To be fully ſatiſſied of the Truth of what the Girl had related, (which might poſſibly have never been really performed, but only the Suppoſition of a Wild Fancy,) Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Bragge went to John Chapman's, and enquired of the Two Men whom Anne Thorn ſaid ſhe had met; they related that they ſaw Anne Thorn running up the Hill with a prodigious Swiftneſs, that one of them endeavour'd to ſtop her, but could not; the ſame alſo Daniel Chapman afterwards confirm'd, all of them exactly agreeing with what Anne Thorn had related.

There was no Agreement between the Caſe of Matthew Gilſton, and that of Anne Thorn, that to both of them appeared an Old Woman in a Riding-hood, and both were ſent on ſtrange Errands, the one to fetch Straw, the other Sticks; but herein they differ, that the Boy continued well afterwards, whereas this was only the Beginning of Sorrows to the unhappy Maid; for,

The next Morning, being the 12th of February, after ſhe had had a pretty good Night's Reſt, her Miſtreſs asked her whether ſhe thought ſhe could go to Miſtreſs Adams's Houſe, (a near Neighbour.) to fetch a few Peaſe? She ſaid ſhe thought ſhe could, and went with Miſtreſs Roſe Adams (who had breakfaſted that Morning with Miſtreſs Gardiner,) to her Houſe; having got her Peaſe, as ſhe was coming Home ſhe met Jane Wenham, who asked her why ſhe told ſuch Stories of her, as if ſhe had Bewitched her? Anne Thorn answered, ſhe had ſaid nothing but what was true, and ſhe was the Cauſe of all her Diſorder; to this Jane Wenham reply'd, if you tell any more ſuch Stories of me it ſhall be worſe for you than it has been yet, and ſhov'd her with her Hand. As ſoon as Anne Thorn had Limp'd Home, ſhe told her Miſtreſs with a great Concern, that ſhe had met Jane Wenham, and what had paſt between them.

When this Circumſtance was preſs'd upon Jane Wenham afterwards, before Sir Henry Chauncy, ſhe deny'd that ſhe had met Anne Thorn, ſaying, that ſhe was at that Time at Weſton, Three Miles off; to diſprove which, Thomas Ire-

land

land made Oath, that he saw her in the Town within Three Minutes of the Time the Girl said she met her; which yet might possibly be false, altho' he had all the Reason in the World to believe his Senses, if the Relation *Jane Wenham* gave of it afterwards may be admitted as Truth, when she said, that altho' it was not she that met *Anne Thorn*, yet it was her Familiar in her Shape; but of this more at large, when we come to speak of her Confession.

Let us now return to the poor Maid, and see how *Jane Wenham's*, or if you please, the Familiar Spirit's Threatnings were made good. In the Afternoon the said *Anne Thorn* was taken Speechless, with strange Tremblings, and Convulsions of Body, and yet was all the while sensible, pointing, and making Signs towards *Jane Wenham's* House; and when she was able to speak, she said she should never be well till she went to fetch more Sticks, and made many Attempts to go, but was prevented, her Mistress telling her she should not go, unless Company went with her. At last they let her go out, Mistress *Gardiner*, and many others, following her; there were Two high Five-Bar-Gates in the Way, one of which was set open on Purpose; but instead of going through it, she leap'd very nimbly over the other which was shut, being the same she had vaulted over before. Then she ran a little Way farther, to the bottom of *White-Hill*, her Mistress and the rest following her; when she came thither, her Legs fail'd her, and she was not able to stand; so they took her up in their Arms, and carry'd her a little Way back, then she could run to the same Place again, but proceed no farther, her Strength failing her, as before; thus she was try'd several Times, and always when she came just over-against that Place, for she try'd that Way, she could go no farther. Then Mistress *Gardiner* order'd Two Men to lead her forward by Force, which they assay'd to do; but when she had got a little Way about the same Place, she shrieked out, as if violently tormented, and begg'd them to let her go back, for something pressed so hard against her that it would kill her if she did not. So they carry'd her Homewards, and when she came to the Gates they could not force her through that which was open, but she leaped nimbly over the other that was shut. When she was returned Home she was in a Fit for some Time, and Speechless; but when she could speak, they asked her why she could



could go no farther when she was at the bottom of *White Hill* : She answered, that *Jane Wenham* stood in her Way and would not let her, and told her she might fetch more Sticks at her Time, but should not go if any Company went with her.

After a little Rest, *Anne Thorn* found herself strongly prompted to go to *Jane Wenham's* House, saying, she would have some of her Blood; they let her go out again, she made towards *Wenham's* House, over a Hedge, but tumbling into the Ditch on the other Side, she put her Knee out again; then she called to *Jane Wenham*, who was going into her House, to come to her, saying, 'tis you that torment me, and more Words to that Purpose. *Jane Wenham* answer'd, she was no such Person; *Mistress Gardiner* desired her to come to the Girl, she answer'd, she would not come, she knew what she had to do, and went into her House. Then *Anne Thorn* was brought Home again, and soon after fell into another Fit, pointing earnestly to *Jane Wenham's*. *William Borroughs*, a Neighbour, who was present, said, he would fetch her if it were possible, and soon after brought her to the Maid, who was Speechless, and to all Appearance in a Fainting Fit; as soon as *Jane Wenham* approached her, she flew at her, crying out, you have ruin'd me; *Wenham* answered, you are a Liar; no, answer'd the Girl, I am not; you threatned me this Morning; which she having deny'd, went out of the House, and *Anne Thorn* was better that Evening, but full of Pain, her Bone being cut. These Things were done before a Multitude of Witnesses, who could not all be impos'd on; and altho' they are very surprizing, yet are nothing so, in Comparison with other Passages that followed.

The next Morning *Mr. Gardiner* sent *Anne Thorn* a Second Time to the Bone-setters, who liv'd Three Miles off, and she returned about Noon pretty well, her Knee being very well set. About an Hour afterwards she was taken again with a violent Fit, which lasted a long Time, and several Times she seemed to be dead; when she came to herself that she could speak, she said she must go again to the Tree to fetch more Sticks, and then she was sure she should be well; upon *Mr. Arthur Chauncy's* promising that he and *Thomas Ireland* would follow her at a Distance, and observe her Actions, and that they would endeavour to keep so near to her, as to be able, if possible, to prevent her

her coming to any Mischief, her Mistress let her go. When she came to the Tree, they had followed her so close, (tho' on the other Side of the Hedge, lest she should perceive them,) that they saw her gather some Sticks, pull off her Gown and Apron, and wrap them up, as before; they saw her also reach her Hand to the Hedge, as if she had taken something from thence. Then the Girl came running back so fast that they were left behind her; but upon her looking back, and seeing Mr. Chauncy, she fell down against a Hedge, wringing her Hands in a lamentable Manner; they stay'd some Time to see whether she could get up again, and upon her not rising, they came to her, and ask'd her what she ailed? But she could give no Answer. Then they took her up in their Arms, and brought her Homewards; when they came to the Gates, they would have forced her through that which was set open, but could not do it with all their Strength, for she was forced from them over that which was shut with such an Incredible Swiftmess, as cannot easily be imagined, but by those that saw it. Then she ran before them into the House, and flung the whole Bundle into the Fire. Mistress Gardiner being by, took it off, and taking out the Sticks, threw them into the Fire. She continued in a Fit some Time after; when she could speak she cry'd out there was another Pin in the Gown; upon searching they found one very crooked; it was then Mistress Gardiner asked what she had seen? She said she had seen the Old Woman again, who told her she need not come any more for Sticks, and gave her the Pin through the Hedge; adding that the Old Woman's Hand was so Black, that she knew not whether she had a Black Glove or no; but her Face was so muffled in a Riding-hood that she could not see it: For some Time after this *Annie Thorn* continued pretty well, but soon after Five of the Clock she was taken rather worse than before, and when she spoke she cried out she must go? They asked her whither? She answered, she could not tell, it was but a little Way, and flew up with such Strength that Two or Three Men could not hold her, tho' just before her Eyes were turned, and sunk in her Head, and her Teeth set, so that she seemed to be giving up the Ghost. Mr. Chauncy perswaded Mistress Gardiner to let her go, and he, with Two or Three more Men, would follow her; when she saw the Way clear, she started, and ran directly to the River at the lower End of the Close. Mr.

Chauncy

*Chauncy* caught her just as her Feet were in the Mire, and she was going to plunge herself into the Water. When she was laid hold on, she shrieked out, saying, she must go. Then *Mr. Chauncy*, and the rest, led her over the Bridge, but she was for coming back into the Water. They brought her after this half-way home to the House, when she cried out she must go back again, for her Pains were so bad she could not bear them, and she was very strong, as before; they brought her to the River again, and she begg'd she might but touch the Water and she should be well; they took up some Water, and gave it her, but that would not fatishe her, she must go into the River.

I must observe, that afterward when she was better she said upon Oath, That at that Time she was violently tempted to drown herself; and she thanked her Mistress, and the rest, for not letting her go into the Water, for if she had touch'd it they could not have saved her; but to proceed.

They made her believe upon her earnest Request to go into the River, that they would throw her in, and gave her a Swing as if they were really about to do it, and she struggled hard to get out of their Hands into the Water. After this they brought her into the House, where she fell into a Fit again, pointing to *Jane Wenham's* House; they observing her Eyes close shut, removed her, and set her Face at several Times towards several Parts of the Room, yet she continually pointed with her Fingers the same Way. Upon this some that were present were for bringing *Jane Wenham* to the Maid, and accordingly went for her; she had lock'd herself into her House, and said, she was not well, and refus'd to come; they us'd all the fair Words they could think of to persuade her, not without offering her Money, if she would but come and speak to the Poor Girl, but all to no Purpose. Then they sent for the Constable, (who had just received a Warrant from *Sir Henry Chauncy*, to apprehend her upon Suspicion of Felony and Witchcraft;) when the Constable was come, they told her he was there, and desired her to open the Door by fair Means, and not to force them to do it by foul. She answered, she knew what she had to do better than they could tell her; on which they broke open the Door that was lock'd with Two Locks, and brought her to the Maid, who was lying Speechless, in very great



Misery and Torture, but all the Time very sensible, as she was indeed all along, during the whole Course of her strange Disorder. As soon as *Jane Wenham* spoke to her, her Colour came into her Cheeks, and she started up, crying, you are a base Woman, you have ruined me, and flew upon her to scratch her, saying, I must have your Blood, or I shall never be well. She scratched *Jane Wenham* in the Forehead with such Fury and Eagerness, that the Noise of her Nails seemed to all that were present as if she were scratching against a Wainscoat, yet no Blood followed; *Jane Wenham* holding her Head still, and saying, *Scratch harder Nan, and fetch Blood of me if you can*; yet still no Blood came, altho' her Forehead was sadly mangled and torn by the Girl's Nails; of this Difficulty in fetching of Blood of *Jane Wenham* the Reader will have another more Remarkable Instance by and by.

After this the Company began to expostulate with *Jane Wenham*, telling her, she was a wicked Wretch to abuse a poor young innocent Creature at that Rate; that she had been reputed a Witch for above 20 Years, and other Things they said to that Effect. Then *Jane Wenham* protested she was innocent, and offered to be tried, by searching her Body, to see whether she had any Teats, or by throwing her into the Water. One of the Company reply'd, there was no Occasion for it at present, but only desired her to let him hear her say the Lord's-Prayer; she made several Attempts to do it, but could not, always missing Two or Three Sentences. Mrs. Gardiner bad her try whether she could say it after her, and repeated it Sentence by Sentence slowly to her; but neither could she do this, to the Amazement of all the By-standers. It was observed, tho' she tried Ten Times she could not say this Sentence, *Forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that Trespase against us*, nor that, *Lead us not into Temptation*. After this *Jane Wenham* was kept in Custody of the Constable, and the Maid was pretty well that Evening. To all the Account I have given of this Day's Occurrences, Mrs. Gardiner, Mr. Chauncy, Thomas Ireland, and many others, were Witnesses, and attested upon Oath all Circumstances as I have here related them.

The next Morning, being *Thursday* the 14th of February, Sir Henry Chauncy came down to *Walkerne*, to the House of John Trigg, and *Jane Wenham* was brought before him; Mr. Gardiner and Matthew Gilston were severally

examined, and gave in their Informations upon Oath ; while this was doing *Anne Thorn* fell into a violent Fit, and at last seem'd to be dead ; they carried her out into the Yard, and brought the Old Witch to her ; upon this the Blood came immediately into her Face, and she sprung up with great Strength and Fury to scratch *Jane Wenham*, but was prevented by the Interposition of the People, who took her away. This was before a great Multitude of Spectators, who all declared their Belief that the Maid was bewitched, and that this Woman had bewitched her.

After this the Maid was well enough to be examined, and gave a large Account of what had happened to her, being the same in Substance with what is above related. I would insert the Informations at large, but they being all but long Reiterations of the Account already given, which was with great Care collected out of those Informations of *Mr. Gardiner*, *Mrs. Gardiner*, and *Anne Thorn*, and confirmed by the Attestations of *Mr. Chauncy*, and *Mr. Bragge*, who saw most of these Things done, I shall omit them, as very tedious, and now unnecessary, but shall find it needful by and by to insert some others, which are not already taken Notice of. But to proceed, *Sir Henry* ordered Four Women to search *Jane Wenham's* Body, directing them to enquire diligently whether she had any Teats, or other extraordinary and unusual Marks about her, by which the Devil in any Shape might suck her Body. After about an Hour's Search and Consultation, they returned, and affirmed, that they found no such Teats or Marks about her Body ; it being now pretty late, *Sir Henry* ordered them to appear again before him the next Morning, at his own House at *Ardley-Bury*, and left *Jane Wenham* in the Constable's Hands.

As soon as *Anne Thorn* was return'd Home to her Master's House, she had another Fit as grievous as any before, and was Speechless, but very Sensible ; upon *Mr. Gardiner's* asking her whether he should pray by her, she held up her Hands as a Sign that they should ; and as soon as he had repeated Three or Four Sentences of the Lord's Prayer, she fell down on her Knees, and rehearsed the Prayers after the Minister as well as any of the Company. About half an Hour after she had another Fit, and was recovered out of that also by Prayer ; then they kept her Reading till Four of the Clock in the Morning, when she went to Bed,

Having had no more Fits,) and rested pretty well that Night.

The next Day (being the 15th) they all came before Sir Henry again, at *Ardley-Bury*, where the first that gave Evidence was Mrs. *Gardiner*, who confirmed all the Particulars above related, giving her Maid an extraordinary Character for her Sobriety, Diligence, and good Temper, by which she had gain'd the Love of all the Neighbourhood. Before Mrs. *Gardiner* gave her Information, *Jan Wenham* fell on her Knees at her Feet, begging her, for God's Sake, not to swear against her, and us'd many Expressions of Fear lest she should be sent to Gaol, not without dreadful Imprecations on herself if she were not innocent, and declared herself ready to submit to the Water Experiment; but Sir Henry would by no Means allow of that Sort of Trial, it being Illegal, and Unjustifiable.

The Reverend Mr. *Strutt*, Minister of *Ardley*, asked her before all the Company whether she could say the Lord's Prayer? She answered, she could, and attempted several times to do it, going on very readily till she came to *Forgive us our Trespases, &c.* which she could not repeat, nor the Two Sentences together, [*Lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil,*] but would thus express 'em, [*Lead us not into no Temptation and Evil,*] or [*Lead us into Temptation and Evil,*] or [*Lead us not into no Temptation, but deliver us from all Evil,*] and thus she was try'd Six or Seven Times together. When she found she could not with all her Endeavours say the Lord's-Prayer, she try'd to excuse herself, by alledging she was much disturb'd in her Head by the Hurry she was in, saying, she wanted Rest. Upon which Mr. *Strutt* promised to come to her, and try her again the next Morning. In the mean Time the Poor Maid had another dismal Fit, as before, and was recovered out of it by Prayer. Soon after she had another, and when her Eyes were shut, the Witch was brought to her privately; then she immediately flew at her again with great Fury, saying, Are you come to plague me here too? You are a base Woman, and more to that Purpose.

Besides Mrs. *Gardiner*, there were several other Witnesses sworn, particularly *Susan Aylott* of *Walkerne*, whose Evidence being very remarkable, I shall insert it in her own Words.



## The Information of Susan Aylott before Sir Henry Chauncy.

*S*usan Aylott, the Wife of William Aylott, of the Parish of Walkerne, saith upon Oath, That about 12 Years ago last Christmas, she, this Informant, was sent for to the Wife of Richard Harvey, lying very Ill in a strange Condition; and as soon as she came thither Jane Wenham followed her, and she, this Informant, wonder'd that Jane Wenham followed her, since Richard Harvey's Wife had told her that she, the said Jane Wenham, had bewitched her: Then Jane Wenham went under the Window where the sick Woman lay, and said, Why do they let this Creature lye there? Why don't they take her and hang her out of the Way? At which she, this Informant, had some Words with Jane Wenham, saying, Take you, and hang you out of the Way; and then Jane Wenham answer'd, Hold you your Tongue, I don't meddle with you, and that Night the sick Woman aforesaid died.

And this Informant farther saith, That soon after Jane Wenham came to this Informant's House, and look'd upon a Child which was in her Lap, and strooked it; and said, Susan, you have a Curious Child; you and I had some Words, but I hope we are Friends; and asked this Informant to lend her a Glass to carry some Vinegar in from the Shop; then this Informant lent Jane Wenham a Glass, who went away: And this Informant was afraid of her Child, remembering she was thought to have bewitched Richard Harvey's Wife.

This Informant farther saith, That on Sunday following she was at her Brother Jeremy Harvey's House with her Child, and that her Child was taken in a grievous Condition, stark Distracted, and so died the Thursday following. And this Informant saith, She thinks that Jane Wenham bewitched her Child; and saith also, That Jane Wenham has had the Reputation of a Witch for several Years before.

The Reason why Jane Wenham should bewitch Harvey's Wife, (as we have since been informed by Thomas Harvey, her Son,) was as follows: This Jane Wenham's Husband had desired Richard Harvey to speak to the Town-Crier at Hertford to cry down his Wife, lest any Person should trust her to his Dammage, and Richard Harvey had accordingly

ingly done it. The Occasion of her bewitching *Aylott's* Child may be gathered from her Evidence : There was afterwards at the Trial another Witness, who swore to the Death of a Nurse-child of hers upon *Jane Wenham's* stroking it ; but this not being sworn before *Sir Henry*, we shall defer the farther Relation of it till we come to the Trial itself.

Another Evidence was *Mr. Thomas Adams, Junior*, of *Walkerne*, whose Information we shall likewise insert at large, the Substance of it not having been related before.

### The Information of *Mr. Thomas Adams, Junior*, of *Walkern*.

**T**homas Adams, Junior, of *Walkerne*, maketh Oath, That about Three Weeks, or a Month, before Christmas last, he met *Jane Wenham* in his Turnip-field with a few of his Turnips, which she was carrying away, and upon his Threatning her she threw them down ; he, this Informant, told her she might keep them, for she should pay Dear for them ; then she was very Submissive, and begg'd Pardon, saying, she had no Victuals all that Day, and had no Money to buy any ; afterwards they parted, and he saw her not after : But on Christmas-Day Morning One of his best Sheep died without any Signs of Illness found upon the Body after it was open'd, and Nine or Ten Days after died another Sheep in an unaccountable Manner, and shortly after Two more Sheep died also, none of them having any Marks of a Disease upon 'em, but being Sound in all their Parts, as his Shepherd informs him : He also saith, That his Shepherd tells him, that one other Sheep was taken strangely, skipping, and standing upon its Head, but in half an Hour was well, and continues so ; and another Sheep was likewise Ill Two or Three Days, but is now well again : And *Jane Wenham* having the Common Fame of a Witch, he does believe that if they were bewitch'd she did bewitch them.

There were also sworn at the same Time *William Burrough's*, and *Thomas Ireland* ; the former swore to his fetching *Jane Wenham* to *Mr. Gardiner's* House, as is above related, when *Anne Thorn* was in her Fits ; and that *Jane Wenham* had had the Reputation of a Witch for above Ten Years last past : *Thomas Ireland* attested that he met

*Jane*

*Jane Wenham*, within Three Minutes of the Time when *Anne Thorn* laid she Threatened her, but was not any farther Interrogated at that Time; the other Particulars, in which he was concerned, having been fully depos'd before by Mr. and Mrs. *Gardiner*.

After this they were dismiss'd, and the Witch delivered into the Constable's Hand. The Maid had several Returns of her Fits that Night, but was always recovered out of them by Prayers.

Next Day, being the 16th, the Reverend Mr. *Strutt*, according to his Promise made to *Jane Wenham*, to try her once more whether she could say the Lord's-Prayer, went down to *Walkerne*, and call'd upon Mr. *Gardiner* to go with him to the Prisoner at the *White-Horse* in the Town; when they were come thither, they found one Mr. *Archer* of *Sandon*, a Relation of *Jane Wenham's*, with her; they went into a Room, and desired that we might be brought to them, which being done, Mr. *Strutt* told her, in the Hearing of Mr. *Gardiner*, that he hoped she was now in a good Temper, and her Head settled; she answered, yes, and that she had a good Night's Rest: Then Mr. *Strutt* reply'd, that he was come according to his Promise, to see whether she could say the Lord's-Prayer; she answered she believed she could, for she had try'd several Times in the Night, and she made no doubt but she could say it, and accordingly she essay'd several Times to do it, but could not, making the same Blunders as before, tho' she could repeat the rest of the Prayer perfectly well: After this *Jane Wenham* was asked whether she had any Hand in bewitching *Anne Thorn*? To which at first she gave no positive Answer; but upon Mr. *Strutt's* telling her, that if she was Guilty of such a vile Fact, it would be the best Thing she could do, both for the Salvation of her own Soul, and the Good of others, to confess; then she began to relent a little, and desired Mr. *Strutt* to go with her into another Private Room, and she would declare to him what she had to say; but he being desirous that Mr. *Gardiner*, the Minister of the Parish, and her own Kinsman *Archer*, should hear all, press'd that they might be present, which she consented to; and before Mr. *Gardiner*, and her Cozen *Archer*, Mr. *Strutt* first asked her sincerely to tell him, Whether she was a Witch? She said she was; then he asked her again, Whether she had not a Hand in bewitching *Anne Thorn*? She said she had a Hand in bewitching



witching *Anne Thorn*, but there was another who was as deep in it as herself: Then he asked her what induced her to do such a Wicked Act? She reply'd, the Girl had once vexed her. Then it was thought fit to ask her, whether she did not meet *Anne Thorn* on Tuesday Morning as she came from Mrs. *Adams's*, and Threaten her, as she, the said *Anne Thorn*, told her Mistress? She answered she was not at Home at that Time; Mr. *Strutt* asked her if it was not herself, whether it was not her Familiar in her Shape? She confess'd it was her Familiar in her Shape. After this Confession in general, that she was a Witch, and had bewitched *Anne Thorn* in particular, they asked her farther how long she had lived in this Course of Witchcraft? She answered above Sixteen Years; and that it was before her first Husband died, who came to a very Miserable End, and was supposed to have been bewitched by her. Then they asked her what it was that induced her to enter into this Familiarity with the Devil? She said it was a Malicious and Wicked Mind; for when any of her Neighbours vexed her she used horrid Curses, and Imprecations, on which the Devil took Advantage over her: After this they desired her to inform them who were her Confederates? She named Three Women of *Walkerne*.

This is an exact Account of her Confession, as Mr. *Gardiner* added it to his former Information upon Oath; and Mr. *Strutt* also affirmed to me to be true, and gave it in Evidence afterwards at the Assizes, of which more when we come to the Trial; Mr. *Archer*, her Kinsman, was so fully satisfied with this free and unconstrained Confession, that he declared he had not one Word more to say in her Behalf.

Mr. *Strutt* and Mr. *Gardiner* thought themselves obliged to acquaint Sir *Henry Chauncy* with what had pass'd, and came to him, and told him what she had confess'd, and whom she had accused of being her Accomplices; leaving it to him to do what he thought good in the Matter; Sir *Henry* immediately sent a Warrant for the Three Women whom she had named, and they were brought to *Ardley-Bury*; *Jane Wenham* was also sent for, as were Mr. *Gardiner*, Mrs. *Gardiner*, and the Girl; *Jane Wenham* was put into a separate Room from the rest, and privately examined by Sir *Henry*, but could fix no one particular Fact upon any one of those whom she accused: In the mean Time *Anne Thorn* was in as Violent a Fit as any she had had yet, and her  
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Eyes fast closed; every one of these Women was brought to the Maid, touched her, and spoke to her, but she took not the least Notice of them. After this *Jane Wenham* was brought privately to her, and immediately she flew up with great Strength and Fury, crying out, *What, are you come again to Torment me?* And would have scratched her as formerly: After this the Women were discharged till farther Evidence should come in against them.

Come we now to the Poor Maid, who is to suffer still more and greater Pains, and to struggle with more Violent Temptations than before: After her Return Home from Sir *Henry Chauncy's*, she continued very restless, and wanted to go out, but they would not suffer her: It was observed that she did not point as usual to *Wenham's House*, and being asked the Reason of it, she said *Jane Wenham* would not let her; she had several Fits that Day, (for whenever she left off Reading a Fit came upon her,) but was constantly recovered by Prayers: About 7 or 8 at Night she said she saw Things like Cats appear to her, telling her she must go; she said also, that always before a Fit she saw a Cat, which would not only appear to her, but speak, and tell her several Things, tempting her to go out of Doors. It was also taken Notice of, that a dismal Noise of Cats was at that Time, and several Times after, heard about the House, sometimes their Cry resembling that of Young Children, at other Times they made a Hellish Noise, to which nothing can be resembled; this was accompany'd by Scratchings, heard by all that were in the House, under the Windows, and at the Doors, which startled and affrighted them all to a great degree; and several People, particularly *James Burvile*, *Thomas Ireland*, and others, saw these Cats, sometimes Three or Four in a Company, which would run to *Jane Wenham's House* whenever any Body came up to them; Mr. *Chauncy* hearing a knocking at the Door, went out with *James Burvile*, (Sir *Henry Chauncy's* Man,) and saw Two or Three of them so near him, that he suppos'd they were not above half a Yard before him; he endeavour'd to strike at them, but his Arm was stay'd, and he had no Power to touch them, tho' they stood staring in his Face.

*Jane Wenham* had said to Mr. *Gardiner*, and others, that the Maid should be *well* that Night; and so it had like to have proved in that Sense of the Word, in which it is usual to comfort the near Relations of one lately deceased, by saying *he is well*; for now she had another violent Fit,

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from which, no, not Prayers, that never-before failing Remedy, could relieve her; she was cold as a Dead Corpse, her Jaws were fallen, her Nose pinched, her Pulse gone, and several that applied their Mouths to hers, affirmed there was not the least Breath coming from her; Mr. Gardiner had recommended her Soul to God; and all that saw her, (who were very many of the Neighbours,) suppos'd her really dead, she lying without any Motion or Heat, or other Symptom of Life; Mr. Strutt also was present, and joined with them in Prayer till there were no Hopes; at last it was resolved to send for *Jane Wenham*, tho' it was then very late at Night; as soon as she came into the Room the Maid started up, and flew at her with amazing Strength and Fierceness, saying, as before, *Are you come again to Torment me? I'll have your Blood, and tear you to pieces*; which she would have done if she had not been kept down by main Force of Three or Four Men, who could hardly hold her; immediately after this she was well again, having a lively Colour in her Cheeks: A convincing Proof this, (with Submissio<sup>n</sup> to the Freer Thoughts of those Men, who, to avoid the Belief of one Thing, because they see some Difficulties in it, run into a Thousand Absurdities on the other Hand;) a convincing Proof this, I say, that it was neither any *Natural Distemper* that produced these wonderful Effects, nor yet any *Trick* or *Cheat* put upon the many Spectators. For admitting that an *Hysterical Fit* might reduce a Patient to the Condition this Girl was in before the Witch came into the Room, was it ever known that any Person was so suddenly recovered by ordinary Means from such a State? Or supposing the Maid had a Desire to counterfeit, is it possible to counterfeit Death itself, and act it so well, that neither Heat, Breath, nor Pulse, shall be discerned by Twenty Persons that are present, and use all their Endeavours to perceive either of these, but cannot find 'em? I must confess I find no Difficulty in believing the Power of Evil Spirits and Witches, so great as that of attributing these Appearances either to the Effects of a Natural Disease, or to the Dexterity of a Counterfeit; but of this more hereafter: Let us now go on with the Relation of these strange Events, which begin to thicken upon us apace, every Hour almost affording something still more and more surprizing. As Mr. Chauncy was talking with *Jane Wenham*, pressing her to take off the Charm, and release the Maid from her Torments, if it was in her Power,

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(as she seem'd to hint it was, by saying the Girl should be well,) he observed, *That a Pin came into her Fingers, (I make use of his own Words, which I now transcribe from an Account of this Matter, written by his own Hand,) he knew not how, for he was very sure she pluck'd it out nowhere, nor had it in her Hands before; at which he snatch'd it from her, saying, Are you going to bewitch her again with this Pin? And the Maid crying out for her Blood, he took Jane Wenham's Arm, and ran the Pin into it Six or Seven Times, finding she never winced for it, but held her Arm as still as if nothing had been done to it; and seeing no Blood come, he ran it in a great many Times more, still no Blood came, but she stood talking, and never minded it; then again he ran it in several Times more; at last he left it in her Arm, that all the Company might see it run up to the Head; and when he pluck'd it out before them all, there just appeared a little thin Watry Serum, but nothing that you can call Blood.* Thus far Mr. Chauncy, after this Jane Wenham was sent away, who pass'd the rest of the Night in Singing and Dancing, as she had done some Nights before, saying, the Maid should be well that Night.

After this the Maid had one Fit more, but was recovered out of it by Prayer, and continued so well that she could walk about, and rested pretty well till Nine or Ten in the Morning, when she had another Fit, but was recovered out of it also by Prayers.

Towards the Evening of the next Day, being *Sunday* the 17th of Feb. her Fits came on her very thick, and Mr. Chauncy first perceived Pins which were brought to her Hands by invisible Means; this also George Chapman, and afterwards many others, took notice of, tho' Care had been taken that not a Pin was in any of her Cloaths, (the Reason of which was, because, she said, she was often tempted to destroy herself by Pins.) When she had got a Pin, she was observed to smile, and look very pleasant, and afterwards would slyly convey it to her Mouth; Mr. Chauncy took several from her, not without great Difficulty, she clenching her Hands very fast to hold 'em; Five of them he kept, and would have produced in Court, but the Judge did not think it necessary: After he had taken several from her, which she would find in her Hair, in her Gown, on her Apron, and in any Place where she laid her Hand, George Chapman took from her another; they were all very crooked: After this her Hands were ty'd down, and she was pinion'd in the same Manner as we pinion condemned Malefactors

lefactors, yet she would endeavour to get her Hands to her Mouth; then they ty'd her Hands behind her, but still they observed, by the Motion of her Mouth and Throat, that she seemed to receive and swallow something, on which *George Chapman* clapt his Hand to her Mouth, and said that he plainly felt a Pin striking against his Hands; and altho' several Times they saw the Pins, yet they could catch them no more, they being as strangely convey'd away as they came: This sad Sight concerned *Mrs. Gardiner* more than all that had past, and made her despair of her Maid's Life; and being tired out with Grief and Fatigue, she withdrew herself and Children to a Neighbour's House, not being able to bear such sad Sights any longer.

This Evening they were advised to take some of the Girl's Urine, and put it into a Stone-bottle, tye the Cork down, and set it over the Fire, which they did, and sent to the House where the Witch was one that should observe whether she shew'd any more than ordinary Uneasiness; it was found that exactly at that Time she seem'd in great Pain, and shed Tears plentifully, (which she never was observed to do before or since,) and continued seemingly in Misery and Torture till the Time that the Bottle flew with a Report as great as that of a Pistol, and then she was very Merry, Singing and Dancing, as before: It was also taken Notice of by Two Men that sat up with *Jane Wenham*, that in the Evening she pull'd out her Pin-Cushion, which was stuck full of Pins, and that in the Morning when she produced it again they were all gone, and she wanted a Pin to pin up her Gown. These Men farther said, that they observed that she had often crooked Pins in her Mouth, with what Design, or to what Purpose, they knew not; but I think we may reasonably conjecture when we consider the Condition of the Unhappy Maid, who continued finding Pins where-ever she cast her Eyes; and when she was put to Bed, and her Hands ty'd down, she was seen to lick several off the Pillows, so that they were forced narrowly to watch her: The Noises of screaming of Cats, and scratching at the Windows and Doors, still continued, but the Girl had no farther Harm that Night.

It was thought high Time to put the *Mittimus* in Execution against *Jane Wenham*, (who had been respited for Two Days upon her Confession,) and to send her to Gaol; but

but before she went off, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Strutt, Mr. Chauncy, and Mr. Bragge, went together to her at the *White-Horse*, where Mr. Strutt put her in Mind of her former Confession, and persuaded her to give Glory to God by a full and sincere Discovery; but to no Purpose, she being full of Equivocations, and Evasions, now confessing, and anon denying what she had confest. She was particularly asked in what Manner she made a Contract with the Devil? But we could make nothing of her Answer, save that an Old Man did Spit upon her. Being again desired by Mr. Strutt to tell him exactly, to the best of her Remembrance, the Time when she entered into Covenant with Satan? She said it was above Sixteen Years ago. She owned also, as before, that it was an envious and wicked Mind that gave the Devil this Advantage over her. Being asked more particularly, she would give us no direct Answer, but said we lay in wait for her Life, and would hang her from her own Mouth. After this her Daughter came to her, and brought her a Common-Prayer-Book, which she with Tears desired her to make the best Use of that she could, and to prepare for Death by Repentance. But the Mother, instead of shewing the least Signs of a relenting Mind, or Concern for the sad Condition she was in, gave her Daughter such a *base, wicked Look*, as I am not able to describe, and bad her mind what she said to her about some Flax, Hemp, and other Goods, which she disposed of with the greatest Unconcernedness, and away she went. I think its proper here to insert the Informations of the Two Men that conducted her to Prison, as they were taken afterwards before Sir Henry Chauncy.

The Information of *Uriah Wright* of *Walkerne*, against *Jane Wenham*, taken before Sir Henry Chauncy, Kt. this 22th Day of February, 1711-12.

**U***riah Wright* of *Walkerne* saith upon Oath, That on Sunday last was Sevensnight he asked *Jane Wenham* whether she had seen the Devil or no? She, the said *Jane Wenham*, answered, she had seen him following her when she has looked over her Shoulder, and when she turned her self round he vanished away like a Shadow. This



This Informant farther saith, That she, the said Jane Wenham told him, that something us'd to come to her House, and give Three Knocks, and jumble at the Door; that she knew it was he (meaning the Devil,) and that he (meaning the Devil) could have had her hang herself in the Buttery, or drown herself in the River.

This Informant farther saith, That she, the said Jane Wenham, hath for many Years been reputed a Witch.

### The Information of Thomas Harvey of Walkerne.

**T**homas Harvey of Walkerne saith upon Oath, That he heard Jane Wenham say the same Words contained in the Information of Uriah Wright, and that Jane Wenham has been reputed a Witch these Ten Years.

I have inserted these Informations, not because I think 'em very material, but chiefly because I would give the Reader the Sum of all the Informations, and shall not elsewhere meet with so proper an Opportunity of mentioning these.

Leave we now *Jane Wenham* in the Gaoler's Custody, and let us see what is done at Home. *Anne Thorn* continued to have her Fits, but was recovered as usual by Prayers; and this Night was a Discovery made more surprizing than any Thing that has been yet related. As these unaccountable Passages brought to Mind several Old Stories of Witches, it was among other Things remembered, that strange Things have been found in the Pillow of the Person bewitch'd. This put their Curiosity upon searching the Maid's Pillow, (which I must observe was a little Down Pillow, which Mrs. Gardiner had herself newly stuffed) This was accordingly done, and there was found in the Down a great many Cakes of small Feathers, so closely joined together, that an ordinary Force could not pull them asunder. The particular Account of this surprizing Appearance the Reader may expect when we come to speak of Mr. Bragge's Evidence at the Trial, he having spent half an Hour the next Morning in viewing and comparing Two of these Cakes to each other, with a more than ordinary Curiosity.

Curiosity. Mr. Bragge was very desirous to have some of these Cakes preserved, in order to be produced in Court, but was over-ruled by others, who not without Reason supposing this to be the Charm, would have it all burnt, in hopes the Effects of it might cease. And it is remarkable, that after the burning these Feathers the Maid was better, and had no more Fits till the Assizes: But still was disturbed with the Noise of Scratchings, and Appearances of Cats, till Mr. Chauncy kill'd one of them which knocked at the Door, and after that the dismal Cries ceased.

I cannot here omit one Part of the Additional Information of *Anne Thorn*, taken before Sir Henry Chauncy, March the 1st.

She says, *That in the Morning of the 26th of February, as she was lying in Bed, she saw a Cat sitting in the Window, which spoke to her, and told her she should have more Pins; and that casting her Eyes on the Sheets, she saw a large crooked Pin, but would not touch it, and hid her Head in the Bed-cloaths, and soon after that looked in the same Place, and the Pin was gone, as was the Cat also.*

She says also, *That on Friday the 29th of February, in the Afternoon, Jane Wenham appeared to her at the Window, and call'd to her, bidding her come out of the Doors, but she told her she would not come, and repeated the Lord's Prayer; that then Jane Wenham disappeared, but afterwards came Twice to the Window again, and finding her Reading, went away, and troubled her no more.*

I have now finished my Relation of what past before the Trial; and for the sake of Brevity, and to prevent Repetitions, I have cast the whole Substance of the Informations into the Form of a continued Narrative, but with that Care and Caution, that as nothing that was sworn to is omitted, so neither is any Thing material related, but what is upon Oath. Come we now to the Proceedings at the Assizes. We found great Difficulties at the very first, most People who had seen nothing of it themselves, nor heard any Thing, but imperfect Stories, and flying Reports, being very inclinable to believe nothing at all of it; but this did not so much discourage us, as a Mistake which we have too much Reason to believe was wilful, in laying the Indictment. We were told very confidently, that if we laid it for bewitching *Anne Thorn* it would not amount to Felony,

lony, she being alive, altho' with Submission to that Gentleman's Knowledge in the Law, there are many Instances to the contrary. I shall mention but one, *Julian Cox* was Indicted at the Summer Assizes at *Taunton*, in *Somersetshire*, in the Year 1663, before Judge *Archer*, for practising Witchcraft upon a Young Maid, whereby her Body languished, and was impaired of Health, by Reason of strange Fits, upon Account of the said Witchcraft, (which was exactly our Case,) and was upon that Indictment found Guilty, and executed Three or Four Days after. But it seems we were not suffer'd to lay our Indictment thus; nay, we were told by the Person, whose Business it was to draw it up, *that he neither could, nor would, lay it so*; and afterwards, when we came into Court, we found, to our great Surprise, that she was Indicted only for conversing familiarly with the Devil in the Shape of a Cat, and not a Word, as we could hear, of *Anne Thorn*.

However, we thought ourselves able to prove even this by Two or Three Witnesses, the main of our most positive Evidence being now made meerly Circumstantial. When the Bill was presented to the Grand-Jury *Anne Thorn* was in a Fit, occasioned by the Sight of *Jane Wenham* in the Court, when the Witnesses were there sworn to the Evidence they should give the Grand-Inquest, but was soon recovered out of it by Prayer, and was well enough to give her Evidence to the Grand-Jury, as did Four or Five more of the Principal Witnesses, and the Bill was soon found to be true.

About Nine in the Morning, *March* the 4th, the Trial came on before Mr. Justice *Powell*. After the usual Formalities, and the Prisoner having pleaded not Guilty, and put herself on her Trial, the Jury were sworn, and the Witnesses called over, being Sixteen in all.

The first Evidence that was sworn was *Anne Thorn*, who going to relate what had happened to her, fell into a Fit, being taken Speechless, with violent Convulsions, and was very strong; my Lord said, that he never heard that in any Witches Trial before the Person afflicted fell into a Fit in Court; but for the Satisfaction of the Jury he permitted the Prisoner to be brought near her, and to speak to her, upon which the Girl flew at her with great Fury, as usual.

Then Mrs. *Gardiner* was sworn, who gave a very full and exact Account of what had passed to her; leaving the



the House on *Sunday*, the 17th of *February*, when the Pins were brought to her Servant, *Anne Thorn*; her Evidence was long, and very particular, being the same in Substance with the above-written Narrative. In the mean Time *Anne Thorn* had another Fit, and it being proposed that she might be pray'd for in Court, my Lord at present was unwilling, saying, *She will come to herself by and by.*

The next Evidence was the Reverend Mr. *Gardiner*, Rector of *Walkerne*, who related the Quarrel between *John Chapman* and the Prisoner, which was referred to him, told the Story of *Anne Thorn*'s running the first Time to fetch Sticks, and the Prisoner's coming in when they were burning, proceeded to all the Particulars, and concluded with the above-mentioned Account of her Confession to him, and Mr. *Strutt*; he having been an Eye-witness to all the strange Passages.

The next was the Reverend Mr. *Robert Strutt*, Vicar of *Ardley*, who attested the Prisoner's Confession at large, and deposed, that he was present, and saw *Anne Thorn* in several of her grievous Fits, out of which she was recovered by Prayer; he said also that he tried the Prisoner often to see whether she could say the Lord's Prayer, and that she could not do it, naming the Sentences she could not say. When he was talking of the Recovery of *Anne Thorn* out of her Fits by Prayer, my Lord asked him what Prayers were used? He answered, several out of the Office for the Visitation of the Sick, and other Parts of the Common-Prayer. My Lord was pleased to say, *That he had heard there were Forms of Exorcism in the Romish Liturgy, but knew not that we had any such in our Church. However, he was glad to find there was such Virtue in our Prayers.*

Afterwards *Anne Thorn* continuing in her Fit, the Reverend Mr. *Chishull* offer'd, and was permitted to pray; he used that Form in the Office for the Visitation of the Sick which begins, *The Almighty Lord, who is a strong Tower, &c.* and repeated the Lord's Prayer, upon which the Colour came into the Maid's Cheeks, and the Jury, and others that were near her, heard her distinctly repeat the Petitions of the Lord's-Prayer after the Minister. It was extremely well taken by all true Lovers of the Church that Mr. *Chishull* should offer his Assistance at that Time, when its Prayers were ridicul'd by too many that were present, though indeed his acting in this

Case was but agreeable to the rest of his shining Character.

Another Witness was Mr. *Arthur Chauncy*, who deposed, that he was present at the Second Time of *Anne Thorn's* running for Sticks: that then she went no farther than the bottom of *White-Hill*, her Strength failing her: (as is above related;) that he followed *Anne Thorn* at a Distance when she went the Third Time, but behind an Hedge, so that she did not see him; that he saw her go to the Tree, pull off the Sticks, wrap 'em in her Apron, and come running Home. That when she fell down, he and *Thomas Ireland* took her in their Arms, and brought her Home; that she was forced from them, and went over a Five-Bar-Gate as nimbly as a Greyhound, which Words my Lord taking Notice of, he again affirmed upon his Oath, that she went over as swiftly as ever he had seen a Greyhound leap over such a Gate. That he had seen *Anne Thorn* in several of her Fits, and that she always recovered upon Prayers, or *Jane Wenham's* coming to her; and particularly related at large an Account of the greatest Fit of all, when she was given over for Dead, but recovered upon the Approach of the Prisoner, altho' at that Time Prayers were sufficient. He related, that he prick'd the Prisoner several times in the Arm, but could fetch no Blood from her. That he saw Pins in the Hands of *Anne Thorn*, when there were none in her Cloaths, nor anywhere within her Reach; that he took several of these Pins from her, which he was ready to produce. The Judge told him that was needless, he supposed they were crook'd Pins. Then Mr. *Chauncy* proceeding to relate, that upon hearing a great Noise of Cats screaming about the House, he went out several times, and saw several of them together; that he heard them cry sometimes like Children; that once he was not able to strike them, but afterwards he kill'd one of them. Being asked with what? He answered, with a Setting-staff. He said also, that he saw the Feathers taken out of the Maid's Pillow; that there were several little Cakes of Feathers nicely joined together, and so strongly cemented, that the first Night they were taken out of the Pillow he try'd to pull them asunder, but could not do it, and for a farther Account of this, referred himself to

The next that was sworn, Mr. *Francis Bragge*, who began to relate that he was present the first Time of the Maid's running for Sticks, &c. but was interrupted by the Judge,

Judge, and asked whether he had any new Matter which was not already sworn to? He answered, he had something new to offer; being directed to proceed, he said, that on *Tuesday* the 19th of *February*, he (having heard that strange Cakes of Feathers were taken out of *Anne Thorn's* Pillow the Night before) was desirous to see them. That he went into the Room where these Feathers were, and took Two of the Cakes, and compared them together. He said they were both of a Circular Figure, something larger than a Crown Piece. That he observed the small Feathers were plac'd in a Nice and Curious Order, at equal Distances from each other, making so many *Radii* of the Circle, in the Center of which the Quill-ends of the Feathers met. That he counted the Number of these Feathers, and found them to be 32 in each Cake. That afterwards he endeavoured to pull off Two or Three of them, and observed that they were fastned together by a sort of Viscous Matter, which would stretch Seven or Eight Inches in a fine Thread before it broke. That having taken off several of these Feathers, he removed with his Finger that Viscous Matter, and found under it, in the Center, some short Hairs, Black and Grey, matted together, which he does believe to be Cats Hairs. Upon Examination of the other Cake, he found it exactly resembling the former in all its Parts. He said he did not examine any more of them, but they seem'd to be all alike, and that he saw Ten or Twelve of them. He said also that *Jane Wenham* confess'd to him that she had practis'd *Witchcraft* these Sixteen Years. I have been the larger in relating the Evidence of this Witness, because he gave in no written Information before *Sir Henry Chauncy*.

My Lord said, that he wish'd he could see an Enchanted Feather; and seem'd to wonder that none of these strange Cakes were preserved; and ask'd the Witness why he did not keep One or Two of them? He answered, he would have done it, but was not permitted, they being of Opinion that the Maid might be eas'd if they were all burnt.

Then was sworn Mr. *Thomas Adams*, Junior, of *Walkerne*; whose Evidence was exactly the same with his Information above transcribed.

Then came *Matthew Gilston*, who told the Story of his running for a Penworth of Straw; adding one Circumstance, which was omitted in his above-mentioned Information,



mation, viz. that when upon his asking for a Pennyworth of Straw at *Munder's-Hill*, they refused to give him any, he saw the Old Woman in the Riding-hood again, and that she directed him to the Dung-heaps, from whence he brought Home the Straw in his Shirt; all the rest of his Evidence was the same with his Information.

Another Evidence was *John Chapman* of *Walkerne*, who said that he had for many Years suspected the Prisoner to be a Witch; that the Reason why he did so was because he constantly found, whenever she had threatned him, that his Horses, or other of his Cattle, dy'd strangely, without any Signs of a Natural Disease, and that he believ'd he had lost above Two Hundred Pound by her in a very short Time.

Afterwards was sworn *Susan Aylott*, who deposed, that *Richard Harvey's* Wife, and also her Child, were bewitched to Death by the Prisoner, her Evidence being the same with her Information.

*Elizabeth Field* was also sworn. She said that about Nine Years ago she had a Nurse-child, and that one Day the Prisoner came and stroaked the Child, saying, it was a curious Child, or Words to that Purpose; that soon afterwards, in the Evening of the same Day, the Child was taken strangely ill, one of her Legs being so distorted, that the Toes were turned back behind the Heel; that in Two Days Time that Leg was well, and the other distorted in the same Manner as the first had been. That afterwards the Child had strange Fits, and Convulsions at Times, and pined away till she died; that she always thought the Child was Bewitched by *Jane Wenham*, the Prisoner at the Bar. Being asked why she did not Prosecute her immediately after? She answered, she was a Poor Woman, and the Child had no Friends able to bear the Charges of such a Prosecution. Being again asked whether she was grown Rich since? She said she was still very Poor, but this Opportunity presenting itself, she laid hold of it to give her Evidence.

*William Borroughs* being Sworn, said, that he had seen *Anne Thorn* in several of her Fits; that he twice brought the Prisoner to her, and that both Times she recovered immediately, and flew at her to scratch her; he said also that the Prisoner was one of a very ill Reputation, and that he, and several others of the Neighbourhood, had suspected her to be a Witch for many Years.

*Thomas*

*Thomas Ireland* was the next Sworn, who attested that he had been all along an Eye-witness to the whole Course of the Maid's Disorder; that he had seen her recover out of her Fits at the Approach of the Prisoner; that he saw *Jane Wenham* within Three Minutes of the Time when *Anne Thorn* had said that she threatened her it should be worse with her than it had been yet: That he hearing a Noise of Cats crying and screaming about the House several Times, went out, and saw several of them, which made towards *Jane Wenham's* House; that he saw a Cat with a Face like *Jane Wenham*; that he, with *Mt. Chauncy*, was not able to force *Anne Thorn* through the Gate which was open, but she went over the other very swiftly: This I think was the Sum of his Evidence.

*James Burville* was also Sworn, who said, That hearing the Scratchings and Noises of Cats, he went out, and saw several of them; that one of them had a Face like *Jane Wenham*; that he was present several Times when *Anne Thorn* said she saw Cats about her Bed; and more he would have attested, but this was thought sufficient by the Court.

*Vriah Wright*, and *Thomas Harvey*, being Sworn, attested the Substance of their Informations above inserted; and added, that they asked the Prisoner in what Shape the Devil used to appear to her? And she said she fancied him to be a Cat.

This is a short Account of the Evidence given at the Trial, which the Reader must perceive that I have designedly abbreviated, lest he should be cloy'd with the same Things too often repeated.

Afterwards the Prisoner saying little for herself, but that she was a Clear Women, the Judges summed up the Evidence to the Jury in a short Speech, and left it to them, whether it was sufficient to take away the Prisoner's Life upon the Indictment: The Jury desiring some Time to consider of it, the Court adjourned till Three in the Afternoon, (it being now past One,) and then the Jury returned, and brought in their Verdict, that the Prisoner was Guilty upon the Evidence. My Lord then asked them whether they found her Guilty upon the Indictment for conversing with the Devil in the Shape of a Cat; the Foreman answered, *We find her Guilty of that*: Upon this Verdict the Prisoner receiv'd Sentence of Death, but was Reprieved till further Orders.

The Reader may observe, by this Narrative, every Circumstance, of which was over and over Sworn to in Court that there were Three Things which fixed this Witchcraft upon the Prisoner: 1st, Her threatening *Anne Thorn* after her first running to fetch Stricks, (which was contained in *Anne Thorn's* Information upon Oath, and read in Court, she not being able to give her Evidence because of her Fits;) And 2dly, The Maid's constant Recovery out of them upon *Jane Wenham's* coming to her, and her crying out of her in all her Intervals; And 3dly, It was fix'd upon her still more strongly by her own Confession, which was at large attested by Mr. *Strutt*, and Mr. *Gardiner*, in the Court; and as for the Circumstance of the Cat there were Four Witnesses to that part of the Charge, part, I say, only of the Charge the Prosecutors laid upon *Jane Wenham*, altho' it was unaccountably made the whole of the Indictment.

But before I make any more Observations upon all these amazing Circumstances, I must hear acquaint my Reader, that *Jane Wenham*, after her Condemnation, told *William Borroughs* of *Walkerne*, who went to see her in Prison, that *Anne Thorn* should not be well yet, and threatened also another of *Walkerne*, viz. *Anne Street*, (who had been in the like Condition with *Anne Thorn* for several Days before,) that she should also be worse: This *William Borroughs* attested to me with his own Mouth, and sad Experience proved it to be too true. I shall reserve the whole Story of the Sufferings of *Anne Street* to an Appendix, and proceed to relate how the Witches Words were made good to *Anne Thorn*.

Soon after she was returned from *Heriford*, on the 5th of *March*, at Night she said she saw *Jane Wenham* at the Window, that she called to her, saying, *I will Torment you to Night*, and that Night she had a Terrible Fit, and was often sadly pinched in the Breast, and other Parts of the Body; the Marks of which remained very plain for several Days; I myself saw one of these Marks on her Breast, which was as big as a Sixpence, and turned to a blackish Colour. The next Day she had many Fits, out of which she was recovered by Prayers. Instead of having Pins brought to her, she was now tempted to destroy herself, by a Knife convey'd to her Hands, she knew not how, with which she was told she must kill herself. They continued praying by her all that Day, yet she was ever and anon sadly



sadly pinched, and at such Times us'd to cry out so lamentably, that it pited all the Beholders.

There was present at one of these Fits, among many others, one that had but little Faith in Things of this Nature; but was greatly surprized, and thoroughly convinced, in the following Manner. As she was standing by the Maid's Bed she accidentally clapp'd her Hand against the Bed's-head, which stood close to the Wall, and immediately received Three Blows in the Palm of her Hand, which she knew could not come from behind the Hangings, (there being not the least Cavity or Hollowness there,) and just at this Time the Maid pointed earnestly that Way. She was very often pointing to some Part or other of the Room, crying out, *Look, look there, don't you see it?* Being asked what? Sometimes she said she saw a Dog, sometimes a Cat, and sometimes Mother *Wenham* in her proper Shape; and thus she continued grievously tormented all that Night, often crying out that she was pinched; and when she told the Company whereabouts it was that she was so pinched, they would look upon the Place, and always found a fresh Mark of a Pinch, which appear'd quite Raw, and in a Quarter of an Hour skinn'd over like a dry Burn, and sometimes the Blood would appear just ready to start out.

The next Morning she had another Fit, at which a very Ingenious Gentleman, and Able Physician, happened to be present; his Curiosity bringing him a little out of his Way to enquire into the Truth of the Story of this Witch, which he had heard several Ways told, as Things of this Nature generally are. When he saw her in her Fit, (which was one of the least she ever had,) he try'd whether he could bring her out of it without Prayers; he took a great Feather, which he burning, held under the Maid's Nose; and tho' the Stink was so great that we were not able to bear it in the Room, yet the Maid received that strong Steam into her Nose, without being the least affected with it, as far as we could perceive. I leave it to others to determine how far it is possible in such a Case to counterfeit, and proceed. The Doctor felt her Pulse, and examined into as many Particulars as he thought fit, in order to satisfy himself; and upon the Girl's crying out afterwards that she was pinched, he asked where? And she saying upon her Foot, we all looked, and saw a fresh Mark of a Pinch. Out of this Fit the Doctor saw the  
Maid

Maid recovered by Prayer before he departed. I cannot say that the little he saw thoroughly convinced him, who is a profess'd Unbeliever of Things of this Nature; but thus much he said; we might take his Word for, as a Physician, *That it was no Natural Disease under which the Maid laboured; that it must be either Counterfeit, or Preternatural.* And upon this Issue we declare ourselves willing to put the whole Matter before all the World.

After this the Maid continued pretty well, but on *Wednesday*, the 12th of *March*, she saw *Jane Wenham* again several times in the Afternoon, and at Night. She told her she was come to plague her, but the Maid received no farther Hurt that Night. The next Day she saw her again in the Shape of a Cat; I asked her how she knew that Cat to be *Mother Wenham*? She said, she knew it to be her, because the Face of the Cat was like hers, and she (the Cat) spoke to her, and told her she would torment her. An Hour or Two after this, (she says,) she saw *Jane Wenham* in her proper Shape several times, and was violently pinched, as before; and that she had a Knife conveyed to her Hand, and afterwards into her Pocket, she knows not how, but that she was tempted to destroy herself with the Knife. She had another small Fit that Day, but is much better than she has been.

I have now done with the Story of this unhappy Maid, whom I doubt not but the Reader supposes to be a very Melancholy, Fanciful Person, and will hardly believe me when I assure him that she is quite the reverse of all this. But this is really the Case, she is of a very Lively, Brisk Temper, never was known to be easily frightened, and even this long Disorder has not so far broke her Spirits, but whenever she has a lucid Interval from her Pains, she is very Chearful and Pleasant, and pleases herself with the Hopes that ere long she shall be well. I have upon this Occasion enquired into other Parts of her Character, and find she has a very good one. Her Mistress says she is a diligent and faithful Servant, and one that minds good Things, and loves to say her Prayers, and go to Church. She is not yet Seventeen Years old, and has seen but little of the World, having never been far from Home.

Nor can any one imagine that this Young Girl should be able to contrive and carry on a Cheat so Nicely, as to deceive not only all the Family where she lived, but the whole Neighbourhood, who were all present at some Part or other

her of her Disorder? That she should chase such an Unhappy Fate for acting this Part, as when her Knee was just set, rather than when she was strong and able to run, that she should be able of herself to run at the prodigious Rate she did, not less than Eight or Nine Miles per Hour, and to counterfeit even Death itself one Minute, and restore herself to Health the very next, and that she should put herself to all this Trouble for no Manner of Pleasure or Profit, is so very unconceivable, so wholly unaccountable, that I must needs say I shall never have Faith enough to believe such an Heap of Absurdities.

Then, that the Prisoner too should come into the Plot against herself, and confess that she had bewitched this Maid, and this without any Force, or Constraint, any Threatning, or other ill Usage, to bring her to this Confession, (for the Truth of which we appeal to Mr. Archer himself, her Kinsman, who was present when she confess'd to Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Strutt,) that she should name the very Time when she made a League with the Devil, when there was no such Thing, and by this bring herself to a shameful Death, is another Difficulty, which my free thinking will not suffer me to swallow.

As for the Character of *Jane Wenham*, I would not soil my Paper with it, were it not industriously reported by some People that know nothing of her; only to discredit a Story, they are unwilling to believe that she is a very good Woman. If a continued Course of Idolatry and Thievery, for many Years together, if the Character of a Whore, and the Practice of common Swearing and Cursing, will debase a good Woman, we are willing to allow *Jane Wenham* to be one; nay, upon Second Thoughts, we will allow it upon easier Terms, if she can find any one in the Parish that will say that he thinks her so, we will say so too: Nay, if she can persuade her own Husband to say so, we will not stand out; but the Truth of the Business is, that her nearest Relations think she deserves to die, and that upon other Accounts than Witchcraft. Besides the many Felonies she has been suspected to have committed, there are more than one that she has confess'd; so that if the Neighbourhood had been desirous to trouble her, they might have taken a much easier Course, and have proved her a Thief with less Difficulty than they have convicted her a Witch. In short, there is this difference between the Character of *Anne Thorn* and *Jane Wenham*, that the former had no Body's ill Word, and the latter no Body's good one; and it was observable, that at the Tryal not one Person, no, nor any of her own Children, so much as appear'd to speak to her Reputation.

Now let the Reader reflect upon the whole Evidence, let him put all these Things together, and we doubt not but he will be satisfied with our Proceedings: We had born with this Woman for many Years after she had been suspected by her Witchcrafts to have caused the Death of Three Persons, a Woman and Two Children; we had born with her Thiefs and ill Tongue with a great deal of Patience; but when Mr. Gardiner saw so many strange Things in his own House, and so much Reason to think they were occasioned by this Woman's Wickedness, he would have been wanting in his Duty to his Neigh-



body, as well as his Case for those immediately under his Eye, he had not endeavour'd in a legal Manner to bring these hidden Treasures of Darkness to Light, and a Publick Examination in the Face of the Countrey.

There are those who make a mighty Jest of the Maid's Recovery out of her Fit by Prayer; but to us this is a great Argument that these Fits were immediately inflicted by Evil Spirit, who are driven away by the Holy Force of Prayer, which our Saviour has so often prescribed as the best Remedy against the Power and Malice of a Devil, and extends even to the casting him out of those poor Creatures he had possessed. *This Kind,* saith our Saviour, *speaking of casting out Devils, goeth not out but by Fasting and Prayer:* And what should we have Recourse in such Extremities as these, but the Almighty Power of God, who, and who only, is able to protect us against the Malice of the Devil? Such Holy Charms, or Amulets against Satan, as Prayers are somewhere stiled by St. Austin, we are not at all ashamed to own, let the Word call 'em *Exorcisms*, or what other Invidious Names they shall think fit.

However, for the Satisfaction of the Reader we shall acquaint him what these Exorcisms and Conjurations were, which had so good Influence where all other Means were ineffectual.

They were first the *Lord's-Prayer*, then the Collect in the Office for the Visitation of the Sick, which begins, *O Lord, look down from Heaven,* &c. the Prayer at the End of the same Office, (with some few Variations,) for Persons troubled in Mind, that in the Litany, *O God, Merciful Father, that despisest not the Sighing of a Contrite Heart* &c. and that at the End, *We humbly beseech thee, O Father,* &c. and sometimes that Benediction in the Office abovemention'd, *Thou Almighty Lord, who is a strong Tower,* &c. Sometimes we use the Collects appointed by the Church, for the 4th Sunday after Epiphany, the 2d Sunday in Lent, and the 18th Sunday after Trinity. These were the Conjurations and Charms that were used and no other; and Blessed be God they were justified by the good Effects that followed.

It may be here objected, that since the Power of Almighty God is Infinite, and his Ear always open to Pious Prayers, how came it to pass that in one of the worst Fits this Maid had Prayers were found to be ineffectual? I answer, that if we may presume to look into the Secrets of God's Providences so far, the Reason seems to be this, her not recovering till the *Witch* came in might serve as a Means the more fully to convict that Wretched Woman, and by that Means bring her to the Punishment so justly due to her Demerits; and indeed upon the Maid's starting when *Jane Weobam* approached her, tho' she but just before had seemed to all that were present to be really dead, the whole Company was fully satisfied that she was indeed cast into that Deplorable Condition by the Practices of this Wicked Woman.

That the *Cakes of Feathers* found in the Maid's Pillow were really some Devilish Enchantment, is I think very probable, because otherwise no Account can possibly be given how they should come there; and

and it is really strange that the Poem should be so closely knit together, and rank'd in such an exact Mathematical Order. How this should come by Chance is as inconceivable to me, as that the 24 Letters should by meer Accident fall into One of the Verses of Virgil or Horace. The Vilous Manner with which these Poemata were joined puts me in Mind of that Ointment made of Dead Man's Flesh, which Mr. Glanvil, and others, mention as often used by Witches.

I cannot expect that this Narrative will meet with any Credit among those who are resolv'd against all Testimony, that of the Holy Scriptures not excepted, never to believe that there are any such Persons as Witches, but I hope it will fully satisfy all others, that in this Prosecution nothing was done but upon good Grounds, and having now fairly represented our Doings to the World, we submit ourselves to the Reader's Impartial Judgment, and rest fully satisfied in having discharged our Duties. And thus,

*Liberavimus animas Nostras.*

## A P P E N D I X.

*Containing an Account of the Suffering of Anne Street, by the Witchcrafts of Jane Wenham.*

HAVING promis'd to give the Reader a particular Account of *Anne Street's* Disorder, I come now to perform it; I must premise, that this *Anne Street* was a very brisk healthful Maid before she had these Fits, which do not in the least resemble Fits of the Mother, or any Natural Disease; I had this Account from her own Mouth, and altho' it has not been yet Sworn before any Magistrate, yet the whole Neighbourhood know it to be true.

On Sunday, the 17th of February, *Anne Street* was taken Speechless, and afterwards fell into Convulsions, and was so strong that Three or Four Men could not hold her; her Mind ran strangely upon *Jane Wenham*, and she was strongly tempted to run out of the House, but whither, or to what purpose, she could not tell; however, she was prevented by those about her, who kept her within, lest she should do herself any Harm; and upon their going to Prayers she recovered, and was pretty well that Night.

The next Day she was tempted to destroy herself, but was so narrowly watched that she could find no Opportunity, altho' she once attempted to choke herself with the Sheets of the Bed: The Day after she got out of the House, and ran into a Pond to drown herself, and was hardly saved by Three Men, who had so much ado to pull her out of the Water; being asked what moved her to do this? She said she knew not, but she must kill herself; soon after this she had a Fit, and upon her Recovery out of it by Prayer, she said that she

saw

When the Maid was in her Fits there were often  
about the Walls, sometimes so loud like that of Two  
knocks. There were also great Knockings against the  
Walls of the House, which were heard very distinctly by all  
present; the Bed-cloaths and Bed were seen to be lifted up  
and stand when no Body touched them.

Afterwards Anne Street saw Jane Wenham in her own Shape  
spoke to her, and bid her come away, which she could have found any Opportunity. Soon after that she fell  
another Fit, and was grievously pinched, so that in many Places  
her Body the Blood was ready to start out; when she could speak  
cried out that she saw Mother Wenham again, who said she would  
Torment her: In another of these Fits she said that she had a Letter  
convey'd to her, with which she was directed to stab herself, that  
terwards it was gone again: she knew not how.

She continues in this sad Condition, and has often Fits, and  
Body is full of Marks of Pinches she has received; she sees Mother  
Wenham always before a Fit.

The Reason why this Anne Street did not appear in Court, was  
because her Friends (being Poor, and hoping that the Witch would  
be Convicted upon the other Evidence,) were unwilling to be at the  
Charge of coming to the Assizes: And for the Truth of all this I  
appeal to the whole Town of Walkerne, who saw and heard these  
strange Things.

I shall now insert a Certificate from Mr. Green the Surgeon, who  
Set Anne Thorn's Knee, that the World may be satisfied that her Knee  
was really out of Joint.

Moss-Bury, March 15th 1711-12.

These are to certify whom it may concern, that on Monday the 11th  
of February, Anne Thorn, Servant to the Reverend Mr. Oakes  
Minister of Walkerne, came to me, having her Knee out of Joint, and  
did Set it; she came also on the 14th of the same Month, her Knee  
being out again, and I did then also Set it; and that Anne Thorn was  
very Lame, not able to walk, much less to run out into the Field.

Witness my Hand,

E. N. I. S.

